



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

D.J. SWEARINGEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Dear Friends,

I know everyone has been experiencing difficult times as the norms of our society have changed quickly and drastically due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given these unfortunate circumstances, I wanted to provide you with an update on what myself and my colleagues in the Ohio General Assembly have been doing to help combat COVID-19 at the State level.

On March 25, [I voted to support](#) and cosponsored House Bill 197, which is the COVID-19 relief package. This bill passed both the Ohio House and Senate and Governor Mike DeWine subsequently signed this bill into law. The legislation detailed many ways in which our State is moving forward in addressing issues that have been negatively impacted from COVID-19. Issues that were addressed in the bill included K-12 test assessment changes, unemployment compensation, health care workforce support, the Ohio primary election extension, and much more.

Locally, I continue to try and serve as a resource to our county EMAs, Health Departments, first responders, hospitals, businesses, and workers as we try to navigate the challenges in front of us.

Additionally, I want you all to be aware of the many COVID-19 relief resources. Along with those, I've provided a legislative update further down in this newsletter.

Please be assured, we will all get through this and we are in this together. I wish you and your families the best health and safety during this time. I look forward to serving on the [newly-formed Ohio House Economic Task Force](#) which has been tasked with combating the economic challenges presented by COVID-19 and moving our economy on from this as quickly and safely as possible. It is an honor and a privilege to work for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D.J. Swearingen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

State Representative D.J. Swearingen
89th Ohio House District



During this pandemic, I want to ensure people have access to the many resources available to help them during this troubling time. First off, for the latest information, tips, and resources, a great start would be to visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call (833) 427-5634.

Due to COVID-19, Ohioans across the state have been affected in several different ways, which is why I wanted to provide resources on issues that might be affecting you:

Unemployment Benefits:

- Individuals to apply for unemployment by visiting <https://unemployment.ohio.gov/>.

Child Care:

- For pandemic workers such as those working in the health, safety, or essential service fields, the department is issuing temporary child care licenses. The licenses will be granted to already existing or new child care centers that may be created in response to community needs. If your facility wishes to apply for a license, follow the form here: <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS01258/pdf/>.

Small Businesses:

- The agency is working to submit necessary information to qualify the state for the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. This program will enable small businesses impacted by COVID-19 to apply for low-interest loans up to \$2 million dollars. Non-profit organizations and small business owners can apply at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> or by calling (800) 659-2955.
- Additionally, through the federal stimulus bill the CARES Act, they have instituted the Paycheck Protection Program. The program will assist small businesses - including non-profits, veterans organizations, tribal concerns, self-employed individuals, sole proprietorships, and independent contractors - in giving them funds to use for payroll costs and benefits for millions of American employees. Find more information [here](#).

Restaurant/Bar Liquor Buyback Option: 877-812-0013 or OhioLiquorInfo@com.ohio.gov

Mental Health:

- While visitors are prohibited to the state psychiatric hospitals and video visitation will be available for patients, but [restrictions on telehealth have been reduced](#), ensuring that every Ohioan has access to behavioral health care via telehealth services by landline or cell phone. Additionally, if you need further assistance regarding mental health visit the [Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#).

Meals:

- To ensure that [school children who rely on meals](#) provided by their schools are fed, the US Department of Agriculture, at the request of the DeWine administration, approved waiver requests to continue school breakfast and lunch programs during the school closures. Schools can provide every child under 18 with "grab and go" meals. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) will also develop a process to give school districts the unprecedented ability to deliver meals to homes. For more information on the ODE's efforts, please [visit here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions Page:

- The Ohio Department of Education has provided many other answers to questions by the general public regarding our K-12 schools that may help as a reference or that can be provided to them [here](#).



House Bill 355

- Recently, I was able to pass out of the House one of the pieces of legislation that I have been working on since I began serving the constituents of the 89th district. Our district has many campgrounds frequented by those coming from all over Ohio and out of state. This bill addresses premises liability at those campgrounds, and it strikes a fair balance between risks of camping for which a campground should not be responsible and the anticipated risks for which the campground should be responsible. This bill will help to protect the tourism industry in our district.

House Bill 419

- Another piece of Legislation that I have been working on in Columbus is HB 419 which aims to eliminate an excessive sales tax bill on boats that visit our district's many marinas for repairs and maintenance services. Marina owners and workers have brought this bill to my attention as the existing sales tax structure discourages boaters from utilizing their services. Taxes and red tape should not be the cause of preventing good wages and doing business, and they definitely should not make us uncompetitive with other states. This bill has currently had several hearings in committee and I remain confident that it will move out of committee, out of the Ohio chamber, and make its way to becoming a law that will continue to expand our local economy.

House Bill 308

- One of the pieces of legislation that I am more than proud to have voted on is HB 308, which is legislation that will help first responders get the help and treatment they need while putting their lives on the line for us every day for their entire career. This bill passed within the Ohio House.

House Bill 522

- A bipartisan bill that I have been involved with is HB 522. This bill will allow conservancy districts to remove garbage from their territory. As of now, they are handicapped statutorily from removing their waste accumulating within their boundaries, which obviously hampers the beauty of the natural habitat. I am happy to be working on this bill to ensure that conservancy districts are able to do what they need to do to keep these districts clean so that the public can enjoy Ohio's beauty.



I visited Sandusky City Schools to present Tara Henzler Toft with a Resolution from the Ohio House of Representatives honoring her as the 2019 Ohio Association for Gifted Children Coordinator of the year.



Thanks to the Erie and Ottawa Farm Bureaus for inviting me to your legislative breakfast. Proud to support all of the farmers in our district!

Thank you to all of the constituents who came to my Breakfast Meet and Greet in Genoa at the American Legion Hall. It was great to hear all their questions, concerns, and ideas they had for the 89th Ohio House district.





- [Panel Brainstorms how to Jump-start Economy After Crisis](#)
- [Now is the Time for Ohio Manufacturers](#)
- [Rep. Swearingen talks state coronavirus bill](#)
- [Ohio lawmakers extend voting, cancel K-12 testing in coronavirus relief bill](#)
- [Group drops bid to overturn bill that helped nuclear plants](#)
- [Ohio EdChoice Amended Bill Heads to Senate](#)

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